

Make it safe. Clean it up. Close it down.

Gas sampling starts up in B371

By Randy Malloy

The B371 Box-and-Go crew teamed up with B440 Head Space Gas Sampling (HSGS) personnel to begin HSGS operations in B371 on Feb. 6 after 3 months of coordinated startup efforts.

This operation will allow 124 TRU waste drums that contain between 200 and 325 Fissile Gram Equivalent (FGE) of plutonium to be sampled for headspace gas in B371 and subsequently overpacked inside a standard waste box for shipment to WIPP. It will eliminate the need to repack all these drums. Also, these steps will accelerate the B371 repack schedule, which is

being performed in parallel, and minimize B371 worker exposure to the contents of these drums.

Prior to this operation starting up, HSGS operations were only being performed in B440. However, the 124 drums requiring HSGS (a WIPP requirement) could not be sent to B440 because each drum exceeded the building's Authorization Basis limit of 200 FGE. Two previous attempts, in September 2001 and April 2002, at starting up the HSGS operation in B371 were unsuccessful, due largely to the stand-alone HSGS unit, which sat idle in the B371 basement for more than a year.

The B371 startup team needed help from B440 HSGS personnel as well as a commitment of resources from B440 HSGS and TRU Waste Projects management personnel. Two crucial, time-consuming steps were needed to successfully start up the unit (a software-loaded hard drive and graphics screen that interacts with gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer analysis equipment). The first step was to get the software to work correctly, which meant bringing up one of the software developers from LANL. The second step involved tuning the unit to be able to run good and repeatable calibration curves – and many of these were run.

The breakthrough occurred when Ron Thiel, with the support of his B440 hazard reduction technicians, discovered that the sample loop inside the unit was the wrong size, 100 uL instead of 250 uL. After replacing the sample loop, the next calibration



Tony Digiallonardo, right, draws a gas sample from a TRU waste drum with an assist from crew members, from left, Foreman Leonard Atencio, Dave Segovia, Mary Ann Chin and Ron Thiel.



The startup of head space gas sampling in B371 brings together, standing from left, Flo Cantonwine, B371 team; Dave Segovia, B371 team; Stan Jablkowski, B371 RCT; Mary Ann Chinn, B371 team; Tom Nolan, B440 HSGS chemist; Steve Kaiser, B371 Waste Ops; Ron Thiel, B440 HSGS chemist; Tony Digiallonardo, B371 D&D worker qualified as a B440 HRT; Jon Roth, B440 HRT; Randy Malloy, B371 Tech Support; Tom Rael, B371 waste inspector; and, kneeling, B371 Foreman Leonard Atencio; not pictured are John Wrapp and Randy Leitner, B371 Waste Ops managers.

curve ran just fine and allowed Thiel and his HRTs to finish their Minimum Detection Limit runs for the standard gases being run to approve starting up the operation. In parallel, Leonard Atencio and his team, supported by B440 HSGS SME Sue Miranda, were very busy preparing a new B371 HSGS procedure, getting people trained and obtaining the necessary support equipment and supplies.

The three long months required to get this operation under way ended up being worthwhile. Special thanks go out to all who helped to make this happen, and most notably to Ron Thiel, who logged many miles between buildings 440, 460 and 371, but never gave up the belief that this long-dormant unit would work again. The operation will continue in B371 until mid-March.

Catching up on LL waste repackaging

By Lara Harrison

It is evident that Rocky Flats is in the waste business. All of the closure activities going on here will eventually amount to one thing – waste. And with all of the waste generated every day, there are bound to be some waste containers that don't meet the high quality standards for shipment and disposal.

Kaiser-Hill Construction is close to completing the installation of a stainless steel enclosure called a perma-con in Tent 5 on the 750 Pad, where Material Stewardship will begin low-level waste repackaging in March. The 26-ft.-by-60-ft. perma-con control cell will allow for the repackaging of both waste drums and crates simultaneously. Workers will use the partially enclosed sorting table – previously known as the salad bar – used in B881 for uranium-contaminated waste repackaging for this plutonium waste packaging operation.

Crates and drums containing liquids and other nonconforming items that weren't packaged correctly will be sent to the repackaging facility to be corrected so they can be shipped for disposal as soon as possible. Many of the drums have been stored at Rocky Flats for years and set aside to be dealt with at a later

– Please see 750 PAD on Page 3



Kaiser-Hill Construction Foreman Jim Hammack and B991/750 Pad Project Manager Scott Kranker stand next to the old "salad bar" that will be retrofitted to aid the low-level waste repackaging project at the 750 Pad.

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Site moves up in national safety ranking

Last November, 3,255 employees from across the site participated in a National Safety Council (NSC) survey. Compared to results from a survey taken in 1998, employees’ overall opinion of safety at Rocky Flats substantially improved.

The survey results were compared to survey results from 100 other industrial companies in the United States. Rocky Flats was then ranked in each of six categories based on the results from the other companies. This year, Rocky Flats ranked 64th overall out of the 100 companies surveyed – company No. 100 being the best. In 1998, the Rocky Flats ranking was only 45th.

Likewise, for each item on the survey, employee responses were ranked against the NSC database. For example, on the item ‘My supervisor maintains a high standard of job safety performance,’ Rocky Flats ranked 96th out of 100 companies. On the item ‘I understand the safety and health requirements relating to my job,’ the site ranked 93rd. Fifty of the survey’s 70 statements were compared and ranked accordingly. The remaining 20 questions addressed specific areas relative to Rocky Flats, such as traffic safety, and could not be ranked.

Responses from the survey were grouped into six categories: supervisor participation, employee participation, safety support activities, management participation, safety support climate and organizational climate.

Overall supervisor participation was the survey’s highest ranking at 88th. Supervisors are perceived by employees as enforcing and maintaining a high standard of safety, supporting training and safety in the workplace, and acting on

employee suggestions. For a comparison, in 1998 Rocky Flats ranked 76th.

In the category ‘employee participation,’ the site ranked 76th as compared to 67th in 1998. Compared with other companies, employees perceive themselves as knowledgeable about safety and health requirements, such as PPE, active in investigations and in identifying and eliminating hazards; and capable of protecting coworkers.

Safety support activities ranked 64th. Again, compared to other companies, employees believe that safety accidents/incidents are thoroughly investigated, the medical facilities and emergency response activities are sufficient, and that safety representatives are available for advice and assistance. This also improved since 1998.

Responses concerning ‘management participation’ were a mixed bag. ‘Management stressing the importance of safety in communications’ was ranked high while responses to ‘management setting annual safety goals’ was ranked low. Overall, however, responses to this category were well above average and showed improvement since 1998.

The remaining categories dealt with work environment. The safety support climate ranked 53rd and organizational climate ranked 49th. The surprise came when the results showed that Rocky Flats’ organizational climate improved by an astounding 40 percent since 1998 – the greatest single improvement in the survey. Employees believe that morale, teamwork and communication between employee and management is better since 1998.

Room for improvement

The survey results indicated that there are still some parts of the work force that are not convinced that management means it when they say “work safely, and the schedule will take care of itself.” One action coming out of this survey will be to continue to reinforce this message, which has really been the centerpiece of how the site has operated for some time now.

Another area in which improvement seems to be warranted is the effectiveness of the site’s safety award program to recognize individual contributions and safety awareness. Actions will be taken by management both to raise the visibility of existing programs and to add new awards that more clearly focus on rewarding and encouraging safe performance.

Interestingly, only a small number of people agreed with the statement ‘Rocky Flats is a safer place to work today than it was one year ago.’ This probably reflects a heightened appreciation for the increasing industrial hazards on the site as D&D and demolition have become more widespread.

“Typically a company will improve a few points every two years. Rocky Flats improved nearly 20 points in four years. That’s very encouraging news,” said Terry Miller, NSC manager of Employee Perception Surveys.

Are you the entrepreneurial type?

Do you have what it takes to start your own business? A workshop will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. on March 12 at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. This is an opportunity to discover what it takes to start or expand a business and run it out of your own home. The free continental breakfast and workshop are sponsored by the Arvada Economic Development Association, Arvada Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center and the Rocky Flats Career Transition Center. Employees wishing to attend must use personal time and should register by March 5 by calling 720-898-7010. Space is limited.

envision

is published every other Wednesday for the benefit of all Rocky Flats employees. We invite your letters to the editor, story suggestions and comments. The deadline for approved stories is 10 a.m. on the Monday following AWS-Friday.

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Editor: Heidi Nogues, 303-966-3155
Mail stop T117A, Cube 74
heidi.nogues@rfets.gov

Contributing to this issue:

Bill Badger Lara Harrison
Ed Bodey Randy Malloy
Pat Buffer

Rocky Flats Photography Department
Rocky Flats Trucking Department



A little light reading at traffic stops

How would you like to be sitting behind this truck in traffic? This waste chemical shipment required 20 Department of Transportation placards – five on each side of the vehicle – before it could hit the road. Ken Lenarcic, Traffic Management manager for Material Stewardship, is still amazed at the amount and diversity of the chemical types sent off site for treatment and/or disposal.

“The site has shipped everything from uncontaminated hand lotion to mixed hazardous loads like the one in this photograph,” he said. Last year, 300 drums of waste chemicals left the site.



Creating new homes for abused wildlife

By Bill Badger

Few people realize how the decommissioning of this former nuclear weapons facility will benefit mistreated and malnourished lions, tigers and bears. These are not the kinds of animals roaming Rocky Flats when it becomes a wildlife refuge upon completion of the Closure Project. However, the fences that protected the site for decades have been torn down and are being resurrected at the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center near Keenesburg, Colo.

The nearly three-miles of chain link fence that surrounded the Industrial Area at Rocky Flats were recently donated to the Center to enclose an additional 50 acres for the exotic animals. John Thompson, Kaiser-Hill project manager for Logistics and Property, first received an inquiry about the site's fence from the center more than a year ago when a deal for the fence that surrounded the old Stapelton airport fell through.



John Thompson, K-H project manager for Logistics and Property, and RMWCC Director Pat Craig, shake hands after loading some of the nearly three miles of fence.

"The request for our fencing was an opportunity to reduce the volume of waste sent to a landfill as well as do something worthwhile in the community," said Thompson. "The fence will enable the Wildlife Center to build more animal enclosures and to create larger habitats for the animals."

More than 35 45-foot high power poles that crossed the Buffer Zone for United Power were also taken down and donated to the Center.

The Center is an exotic animal sanctuary founded in Eastern Colorado 23 years ago to rescue and protect mistreated, captive animals. Founded by Pat Craig, the non-profit center provides a safe haven for abused, abandoned, exploited and endangered exotic captive wildlife. The Center operates a 65-acre facility with a temperature-controlled roundhouse and a seasonal lake; it depends entirely on monetary contributions and volunteers.

More requests to take in unwanted animals are received than the current facility can accommodate. With 80 big cats and bears, the center has reached maximum capacity and has plans to expand in order to address the current and long-term needs of other captive wildlife. Several hurdles in the expansion have already been crossed, including a donation of a 50-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Wildlife Center, nearly doubling the size of the facility. A critical factor in the expansion was the donation of Rocky Flats' fence and power-line poles.

The fence will enclose and divide the 50 acres into two sections: one for rescued mountain lions to roam in and the other for the African lions and Bengal tigers. Additional dens will be built for the Center's bears with the donated power poles. The final objective will be to build a new housing complex on the donated parcel of land that will provide indoor and outdoor accommodations for the animals. With the new facility, the Center will have the ability to save additional animals and provide a larger play area for the animals to run free and swim.

"Since the sanctuary is non-profit, but not open to the public, any corporate support makes a big difference to the number of animals that can be saved," said John Thompson. "It is good to know that some of the taxpayer dollars that built Rocky Flats will soon help to build a new life for some of the worlds most precious assets that cannot speak for themselves." Nearly all of the sanctuary's \$400,000 annual budget goes to feed the animals, heat their compound in the winter and for maintenance.

For more information about the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center please call 303-536-0118 or visit www.wildlife-sanctuary.org.



RMWCC Director Pat Craig rescues African lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards, mountain lions, servals, bobcats and bears from abusive situations all over the world.



The current animal housing, above, consists of 45 indoor/outdoor pens with access to a 65-acre playground and natural habitat area including a small lake and tiger pool.

750 Pad continued from Page 1

date. Well, later is now!

"We could repackage several thousand containers at the 750 Pad within the next few years," estimated Scott Kranker, B991/750 Pad Operations manager.

Many of the containers are stored in the 444C cargo yard, in other RCRA units and B460. Once the containers undergo repackaging, they can be shipped directly from the 750 Pad to Envirocare or the Nevada Test Site for disposal.

Workers are training in B440 in the TRU waste repackaging facility to learn the ropes. When they are done, they will be cross-trained to perform repack in either area, depending on the need.

According to Kranker, the operation will need to conduct a readiness review before it can begin. A core team has already begun training and preparing for this new activity to commence.

March Anniversaries

5 Years Ed Bodey, K-H Bob Cathel, SSOC James McGill Jr., K-H Orville Rice, K-H Diana Torres, K-H	15 Years Louis Brugger, K-H Eddie Daniels, K-H Charles Eaton, K-H Lawrence Humbert, K-H Jerry Toogood, K-H	Grace Shekell, K-H Anita West, K-H
10 Years Kevin Blue, SSOC Lori Cahill, RFCSS Donald Clark, RFCSS Michelle Dobrovolny, K-H Jennie Marillo, K-H Sherrie Olguin, K-H Douglas Osborne, WSLLC Amanda Woolf, K-H Robert York, K-H	20 Years Victor Ament, RFCSS John Debee, SSOC Stanley Dufour, K-H Eric Engholm, K-H Mark Juarez, K-H Terry Kelly, K-H Michael Landrus, SSOC John Mermigas, K-H Kevin Newby, K-H Frank Novak, WSLLC	25 Years Esther Beck, SSOC Melvin Brown, K-H Thomas Dieter, K-H Gwendolyn Fields, K-H David Freiberg, K-H Gerald Greivous, K-H Ernest Gruber, K-H Van Jones, K-H Steven Steczynski, K-H Josef Zielbauer, K-H
		35 Years Jerry Greene, SSOC



Need employment or income verification?

By Bill Badger

Are you trying to lease an apartment, in need of a reference check or applying for a car loan, mortgage or other major loan? If so, you may be asked to verify your employment at Rocky Flats. Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site uses The Work Number[®] to handle employment and income verifications for all employees on the central payroll and benefits system. This includes Kaiser-Hill, Rocky Flats Closure Site Services, Safe Sites of Colorado and Wackenhut. Verifiers will be able to access employee data for the current year plus the two previous years.

The Work Number[®] is a national service used by many major employers that provides employment verification through a fully automated and Web-enabled system. This fast, secure service is used for anything that requires proof of employment. It is quick, accurate, easy and available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Your privacy is protected. All information is confidential and will not be disclosed or transferred to any person or entity other than to the verifier you designate.

Requests for employment or income verification should be directed to The Work Number[®] at the phone number listed below, or www.theworknumber.com.

What you need to know

A “verifier” is an organization seeking employment and/or earnings information about you. A verifier can be a bank, loan or credit institution,

background investigation company or even a prospective employer. If verifiers need only employment verification, i.e., your job title and total time with your employer, they need to call The Work Number[®] at 1-800-367-5690 with your Social Security number and the Rocky Flats Team Access Code: **10884**. If verifiers need income verification, such as your current pay rate and/or gross earnings YTD and for the past two years, they will need to provide the access code (10884), your Social Security number and a “Salary Key” that you provide.

Visit www.theworknumber.com or dial 1-800-367-2884 to create your Salary Key. You may have up to three Salary Keys. If unused, they will expire after six months. The information you will need to generate a Salary Key is the Rocky Flats Team Access Code: **10884**, your Social Security number and your PIN.

What is a PIN?

Employee default personal identification numbers (PIN) are eight digits and allow you to create a salary key for verifiers. Your PIN consists of the last four digits of your Social Security number, followed by the month and last two digits of the year of your birth date (MMYY). You will have the choice to change your PIN the first time you access the system. The Work Number[®] cannot change PINs, nor will they release PINs to employees.

PIN example: If your SSN is 111-22-3333 and you were born in January of 1970, your PIN would be 33330170.

If you or your verifier have any questions, please call The Work Number[®] Customer Service Center at 1-800-996-7566, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. CST.

Don't misuse government computers

Viewing pornography and other inappropriate surfing of the Internet on a government computer is strictly forbidden. All messages, files and Internet access on every computer at Rocky Flats are monitored for inappropriate activities. Employees are not permitted to use Rocky Flats Internet systems for any personal purpose, gain or advancement. In addition, employees may not use the Internet to access or distribute any text, audio or images that are fraudulent, harassing, defamatory or obscene. Access to the Internet is intended for official business use only.

Information Technology has found unacceptable use of the Internet and misuse of government property by employees at the site. Disciplinary action has already been taken against several personnel at Rocky Flats, ranging from a verbal warning to discharge. All employees are reminded to use the Internet in an effective, ethical and lawful manner.

declassifieds

AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES	\$14,000 or best offer. Tina, 303-829-7341.	Bruce, 303-499-2246.	Utility trailer, 4x8 with short wooden sides, \$200 or best offer. Adam, 303-421-8284.
1994 Honda XR 650L, 1,900 miles, new battery, street legal, \$2,300; 1994 Suzuki DR 125, 1,900 miles, new battery, street legal, \$1,100; 12x7 flatbed trailer, rails, ramps, \$1,000. Chip, 303-798-6079.	Car dolly with hydraulic brakes, former U-Haul, \$600. Gary, 303-745-4581.	Condo for rent: Close to Flats, exclusive Miramonte Ranch gated community, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, garage, first floor, loaded, \$1,100. Anthony, 303-404-3229.	WANTED
1996 Plymouth Neon, 5-speed, excellent gas mileage, good condition, one owner, 92,000 miles, \$3,000. David, 303-650-9053, after 5 p.m.	LOST AND FOUND	Condo for rent: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, new appliances, paint, carpet, 104 th & Federal, available today, \$740 per month. Rob, 303-253-7744.	Barbie 12-volt battery-powered Jeep/Corvette/truck, running or not, for parts. Clay, 303-985-9507.
1997 F-250 heavy-duty 460 4-wheel-drive Supercab, 55,000 miles, very clean, warranty, shell, extras. Tom, 303-466-5340.	Lost early February: black wool mitten with white fingertips. Joyce, 303-776-6155, x5733.	For sale by owner: Beautiful two-story home with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2-car garage, finished basement with full kitchen and private entrance, Corian countertops, clean, clean. Michele, 303-487-9038.	Do you provide childcare for infants (6 weeks) or can you refer someone who does? Need to start mid-to-late June. Debbie, 303-255-9601.
2000 Ford Ranger XLT, 24,000 miles, power windows/steering/brakes, bed liner, premium stereo, tow package, tilt, bug shield, non-smoking owned, \$11,600 or best offer. Robert, 303-460-7040.	MISCELLANEOUS	Virginia House rocking chair, solid wood, dark finish, photo available, \$40. Robert, 303-438-0017.	Water tank(s), 200-500 gallons, to carry on pickup or trailer; chain-link fence for dog kennel. Keith, 970-532-3359.
2001 Saturn 3-door coupe, yellow, fully loaded, 5-speed, new brakes, seals, tinted windows, 70,000 highway miles, \$7,500. Nick, 303-288-3970.	IMPEX Powerhouse, half-cage weight bench with lateral tower, for use with free weights, plus bars and collars and some weights, \$150. Jeff, 303-816-9373.	TRAILERS/CAMPERS/BOATS	
2001 black Ford Ranger, 5-speed, extended cab, 4x4, 29,000 miles, AC, cruise control,	Free: used sectional sofa, recliner – sofa, beige with touch of blue, high back; chair, cream with wood arms; you pick up. Karen, 303-642-3735.	Pop-up semi-hardside tent trailer, sleeps 6, 12-volt power with AC hookup, 2-burner gas stove, heater, sink, icebox, excellent condition, \$1,000 or best offer. Jill, 303-384-9322.	
	Medium-size dog travel kennel, like new, \$20. Jim, 303-469-4535.		
	Desktop computer, 1.0 ghz, two hard drives, 30 meg and 20 meg, two CDs, 50x and CD-RW, 32 meg network card, 256 meg Ram memory and 17-inch monitor, \$350.		



Declassifieds

- Only Rocky Flats Site employees are eligible to place ads.
- Please use the form at right to submit your ad. Or send your ad via e-mail to Heidi Nogues, or via the Intranet (Home Page/News & Info/Communication Division/Declassifieds).
- Ads should be no more than 20 words.
- Check category in which the ad is to be included.
- Home phone numbers must be used in the ads, except for items in the Lost/Found and Vanpools/Carpools categories.
- Site extension must be included (in case information needs to be verified).
- Only one ad per issue (ads will not be re-run unless they are resubmitted).
- Ads for garage sales or personal businesses will not be run.
- Ads for real estate can be placed only by owners and will include the phrase “for sale by owner.”
- No ads for guns/other weapons will be accepted.
- Mail or bring ads to T117A, Cube 74.
- Declassifieds are accepted on a first-come basis.
- Deadline is six working days before the desired publication date.
- Employees who submit fictitious ads will be subject to disciplinary action based on company standards of conduct.

Category (check one)

- **Animals**
- **Automobiles/Motorcycles**
- **Lost/Found**
- **Miscellaneous**
- **Trailers/Campers/Boats**
- **Vanpools/Carpools**
- **Wanted**

Text:

Name (first and last): _____
Home phone: _____ **Site extension:** _____